

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine [[(1)]] with cylinder bores [[(9)]] arranged in a cylinder drum [[(4)]], pistons [[(10)]] which are axially movable in the cylinder bores [[(9)]] and springs [[(22)]] arranged in the cylinder bores [[(9)]]], each piston [[(10)]] being pre-stressed against a swash plate [[(13)]] by a respective spring [[(22)]] which is supported against the cylinder drum [[(4)]], ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each spring [[22]] has a reduction in diameter [[(23)]] between the upper and lower end.
2. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of the springs is a helical compression spring [[(22)]] and in that the reduction in diameter [[(23)]] reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring [[(22)]] in a radially symmetrical circle at each point of the center axis of the helical compression spring [[(22)]].
3. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter [[(23)]] is arranged coaxially with the centre axis of the helical compression spring [[(22)]].
4. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 one of the preceding claims, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the reduction in diameter [[(23)]] reduces the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring [[(22)]] concavely.

5. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that wherein~~ the reduction in diameter [[(23)]] reduces the diameter of the course of the outer contour of the helical compression spring [[(22)]] most greatly at the height of the centre of the helical compression spring [[(22)]].

6. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that wherein~~ the reduction in diameter [[(23)]] extends from the upper end to the lower end of the helical compression spring [[(22)]].

7. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that wherein~~ the cylinder drum [(4)] is pre-stressed against a control plate [[(20)]] by the helical compression springs [[(22)]].

8. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that wherein~~ each helical compression spring [[(22)]] is supported in the region around an opening [[(21)]] of the cylinder bore [[(9)]], which can be connected to a high pressure or low pressure connection.

9. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that wherein~~ each piston [[(10)]] has a cutout [[(16)]] which opens towards the cylinder bore [[(9)]].

10. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the cutout [[(16)]] is cylindrical.

11. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 9 ~~or 10, characterised in that wherein~~ the helical compression spring [[(22)]] is supported against the respective base of the cutout [[(16)]].

12. (Currently Amended): An axial piston machine according to Claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ wherein each helical compression spring [[(22)]] is made from and/or coated with spring steel.